Africa Clearing House Scene-setter
24-26 May 2004

THIS BRIEFING IS UNCLASSIFIED

Overview of Africa

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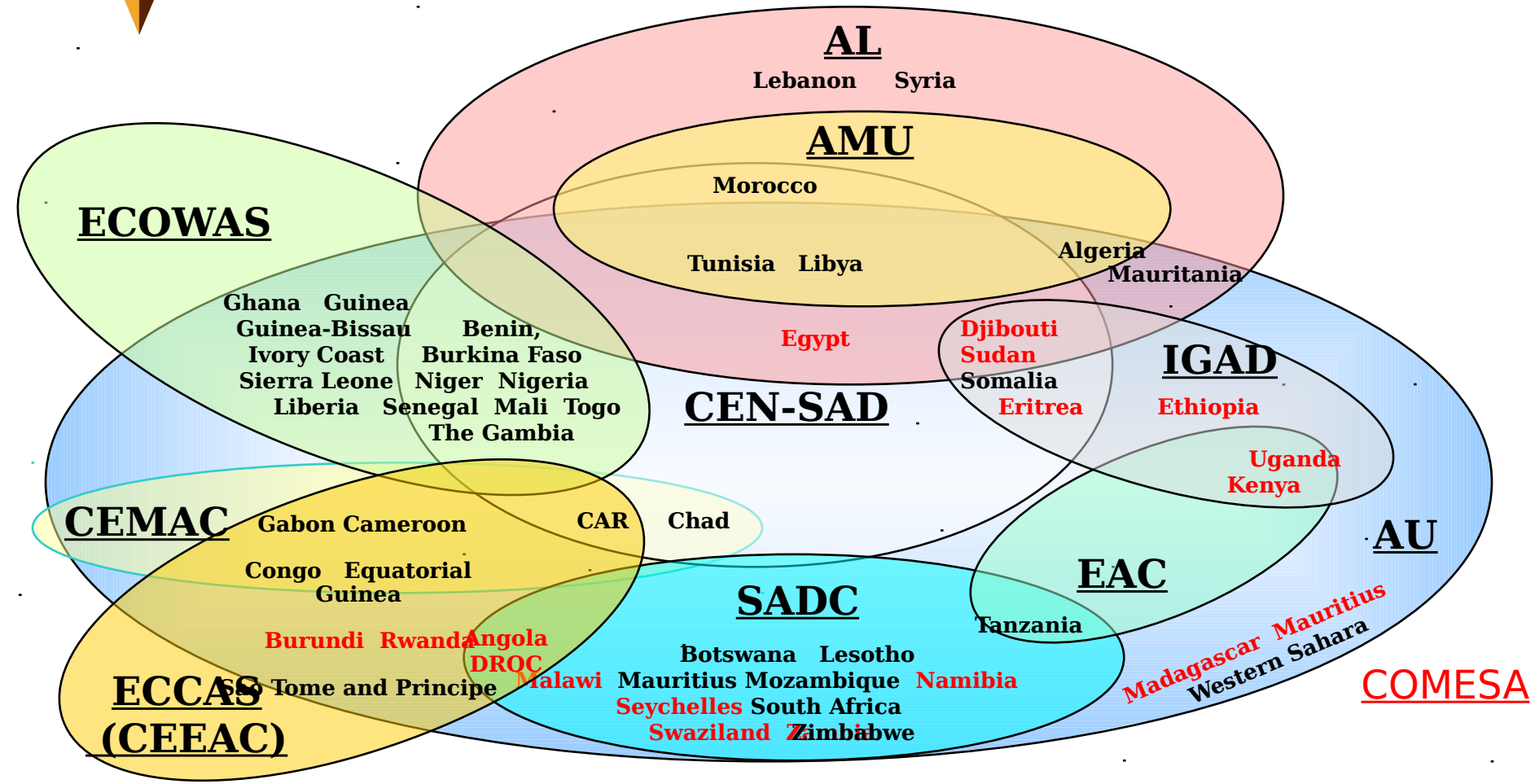
Africa Economic & Security Organizations



AL - Arab League AMU - Arab Maghreb Union ECOWAS - Economic Community of West African States
ECCAS - Economic Community of Central African States AU- African Union SADC - Southern African Development Community
EAC- East Africa Community CEN-SAD-Community of Sahel-Sahara States
CEMAC – Economic & Monetary Community of Central African States IGAD-Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
COMESA Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa

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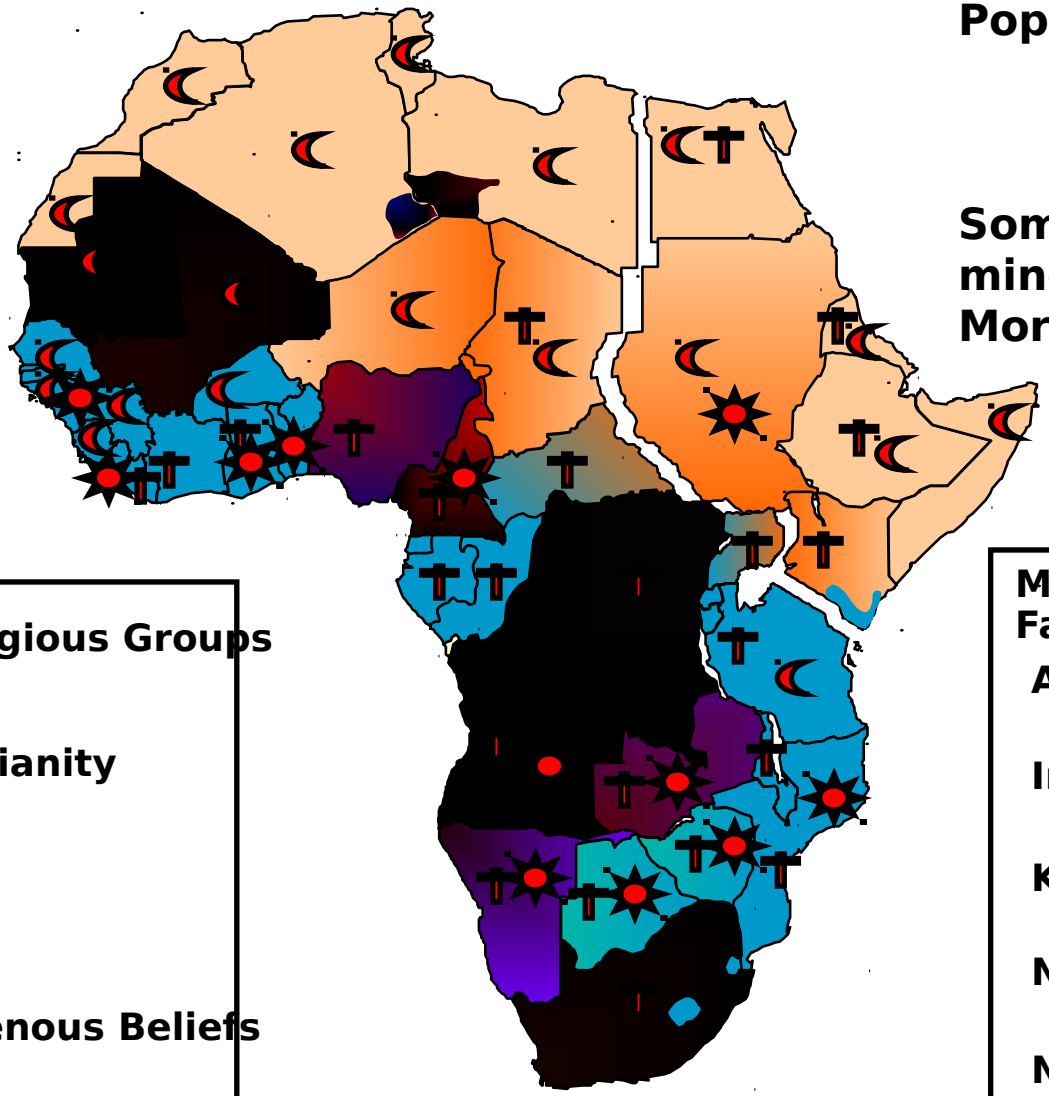
Tyranny of size and distance

Stuttgart – Cape Town: ~9280km

Stuttgart – Los Angeles: ~9280km

Cultural Divides



Population ~251.6 million
- Nearly half live in/around urban centers

Some 84 major and 470 minor ethnic groups

More than 500 languages

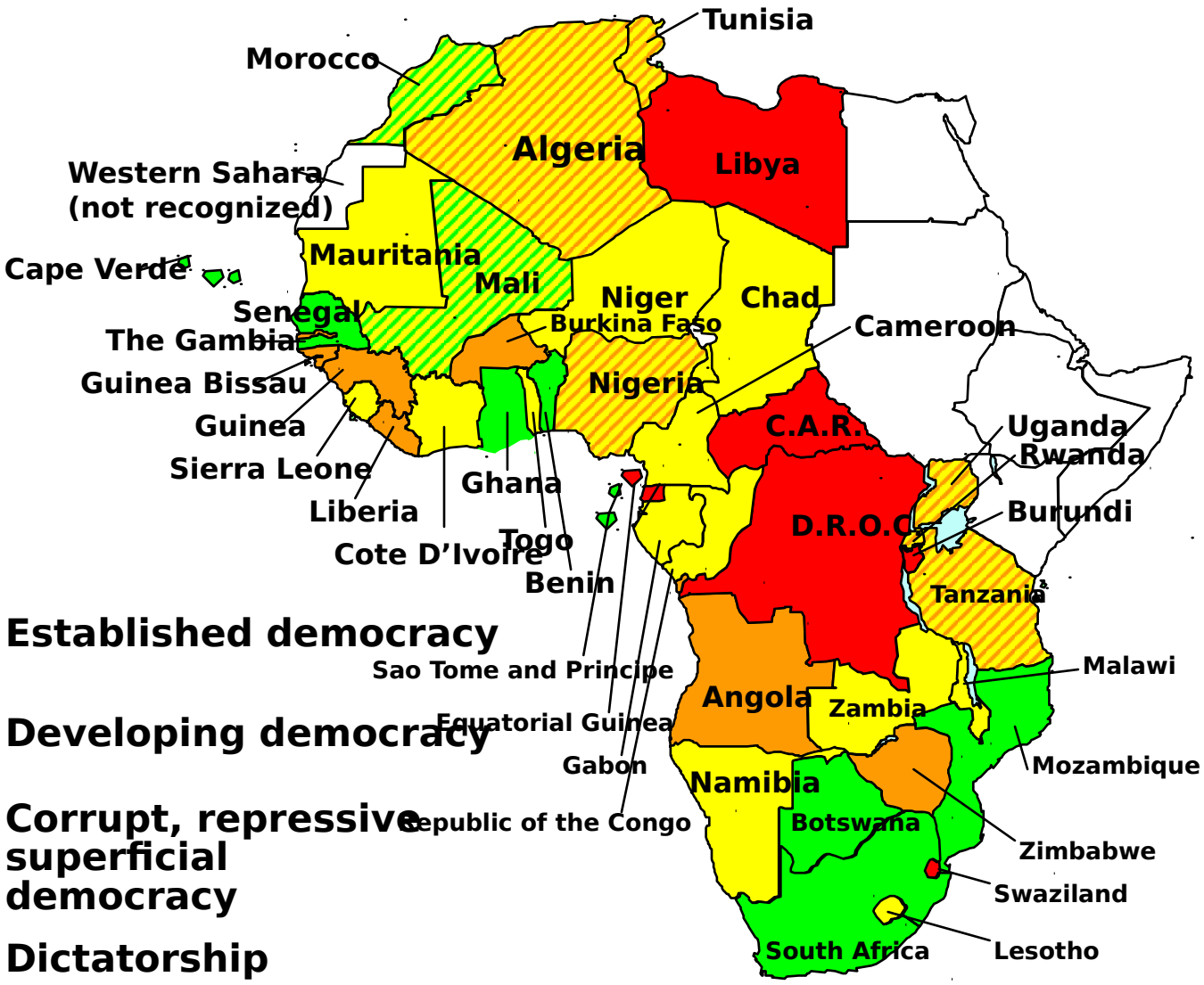
Major Religious Groups

- Christianity
- Islam
- Indigenous Beliefs

Major Language Families

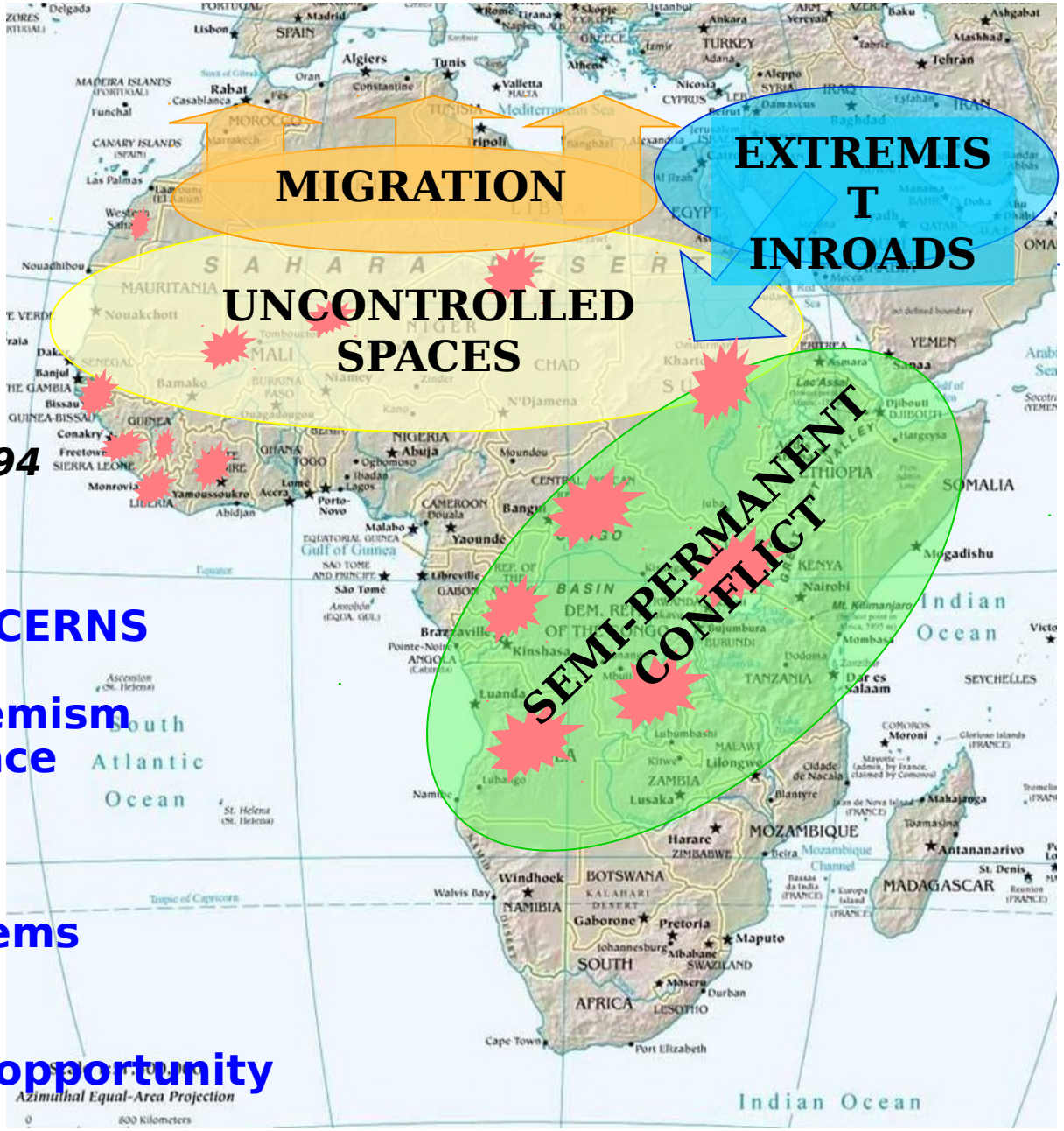
- Afro-Asiatic
- Indo European
- Khoisan
- Niger-Congo
- Nilo-Saharan

Political Map of Africa 2004



Strategic "Challenges" in Africa

Wars and serious conflicts since 1994



CONTINENT-WIDE CONCERNS

- **Propagation of Extremism**
- **Ineffective governance**
- **Poverty**
- **Crime**
- **Health issues**
- **Infrastructure problems**
- **Population ~ 800M**

… both challenge and opportunity

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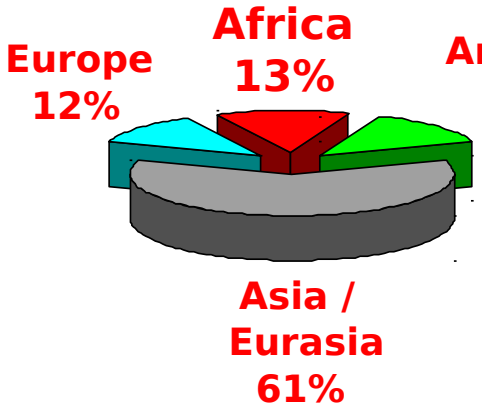
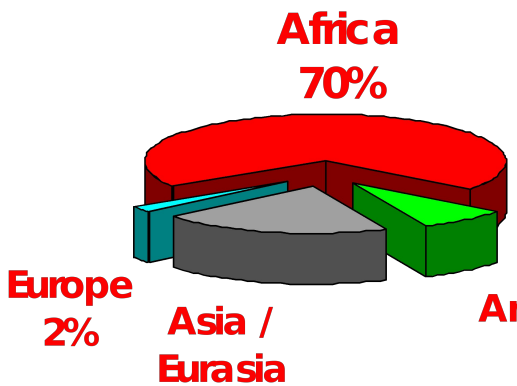
AIDS/HIV

World Population



HIV/AIDS Cases



15 - 40% AIDS/HIV Prevalence

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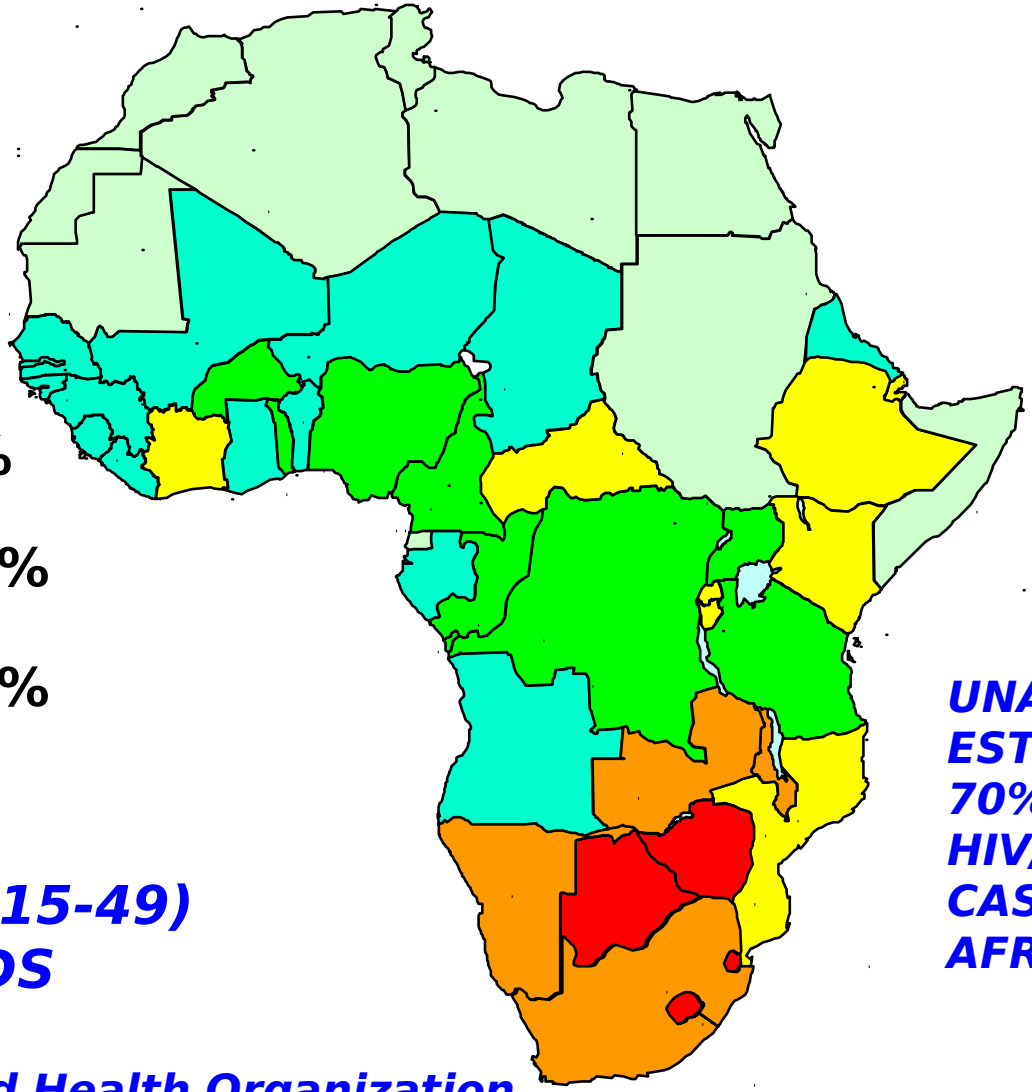
HIV-POSITIVE POPULATION



0-1%

1-5%

5-10%

10-15%

15-29%

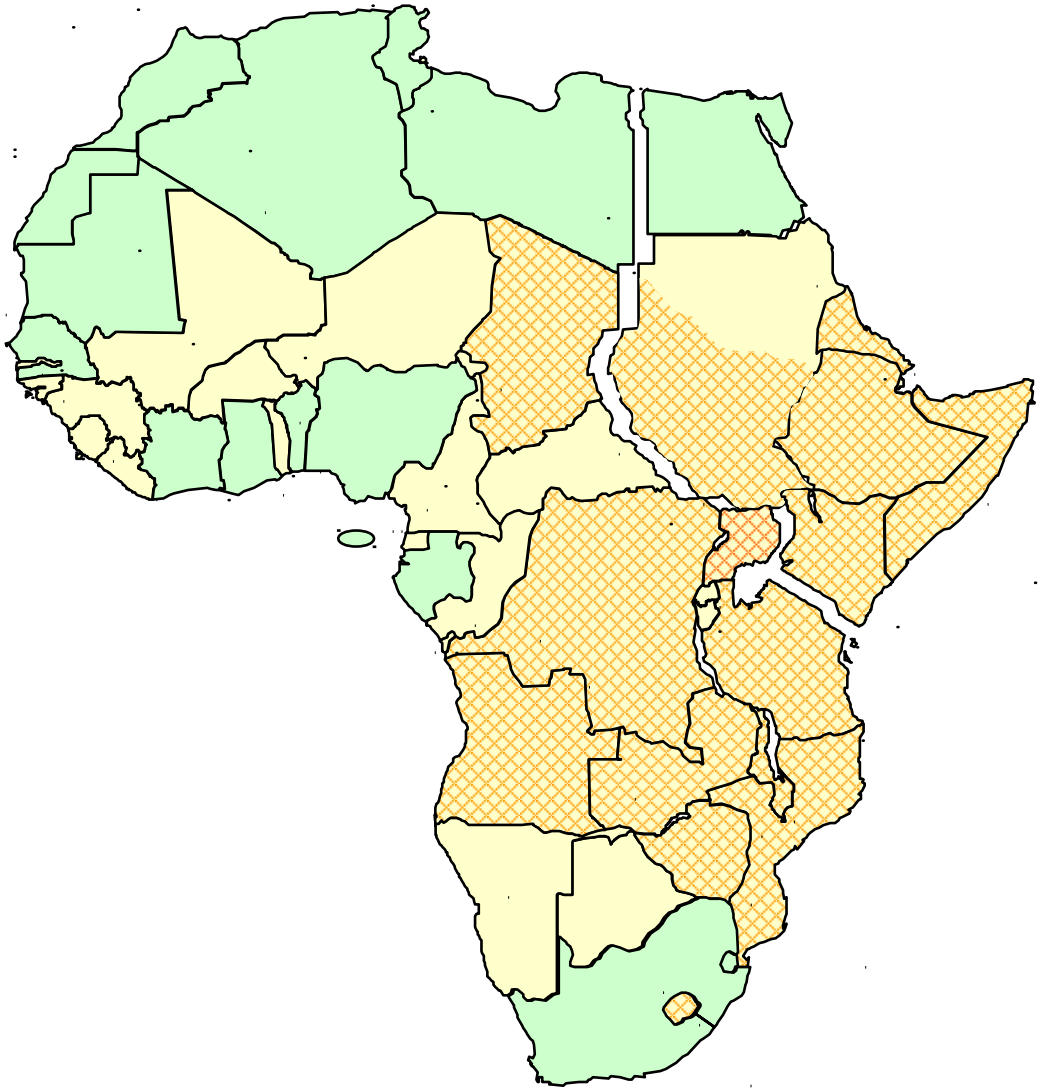
30%+

Percent of Adults (15-49) Living with HIV/AIDS

UNAIDS/WHO ESTIMATES 70% OF ALL HIV/AIDS CASES ARE IN AFRICA

Source: UN AIDS / World Health Organization

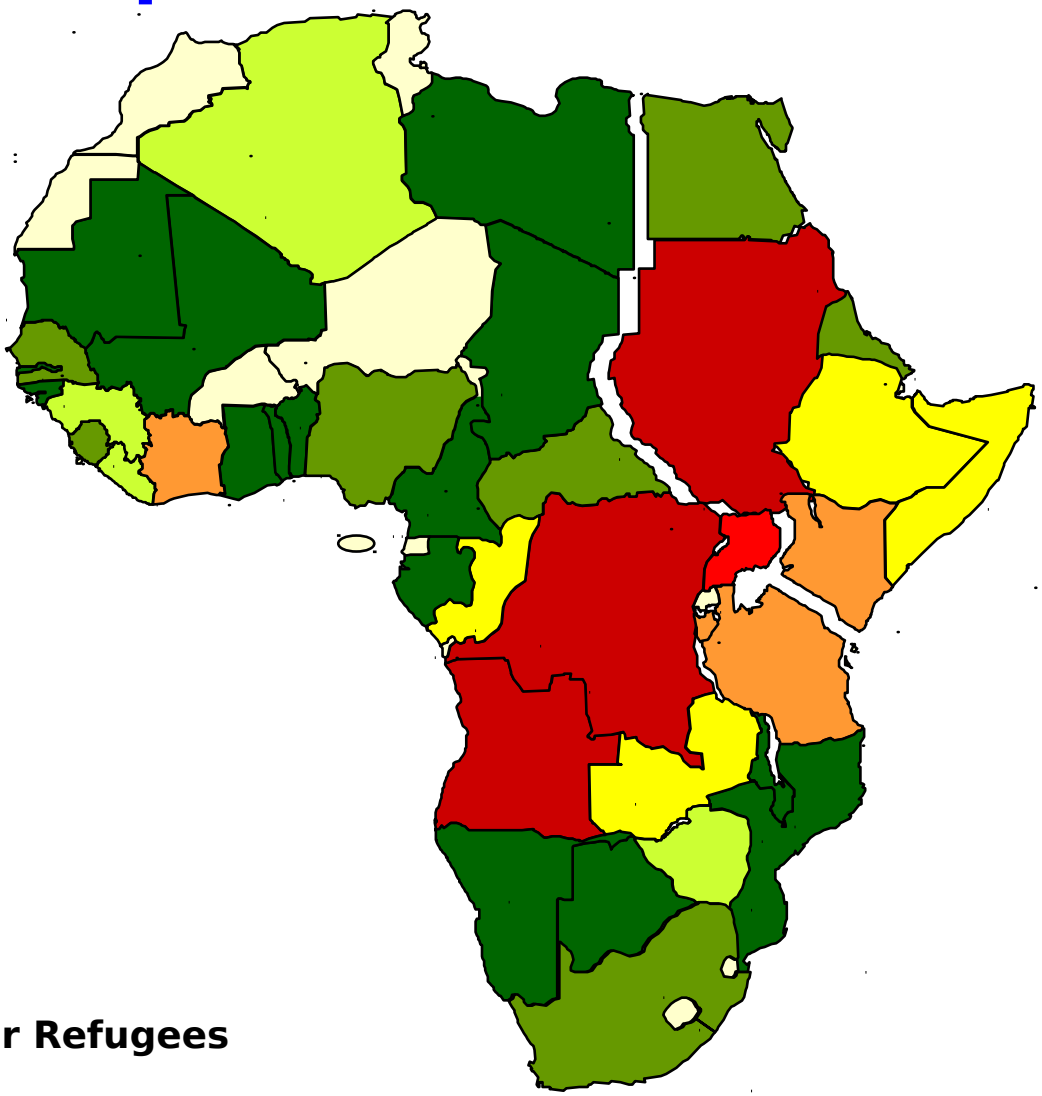
Hunger



Chronic Malnutrition

Principal Famine Zone

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons



Source: US Committee for Refugees

Internal conflict

- More prevalent, destructive than inter-state conflict
- Multiple ethnic groups remain not fully integrated in modern nation state
- Old rivalries, enmities remain active, and exaggerated by disparities of wealth and power
- Pressures by Islamic extremists creating new, exacerbating old conflicts
- Conflict between urban and rural populations

Weak Administrations

- Undemocratic leaders
- Corrupt regimes
- Rule of law ignored
- Human rights problems

Weak "Rule of Law"

- **Lack of limits/brakes on executive power – Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Togo**
- **Anti-corruption campaigns often cosmetic**
- **Little investment in social progress**

Economic Stagnation

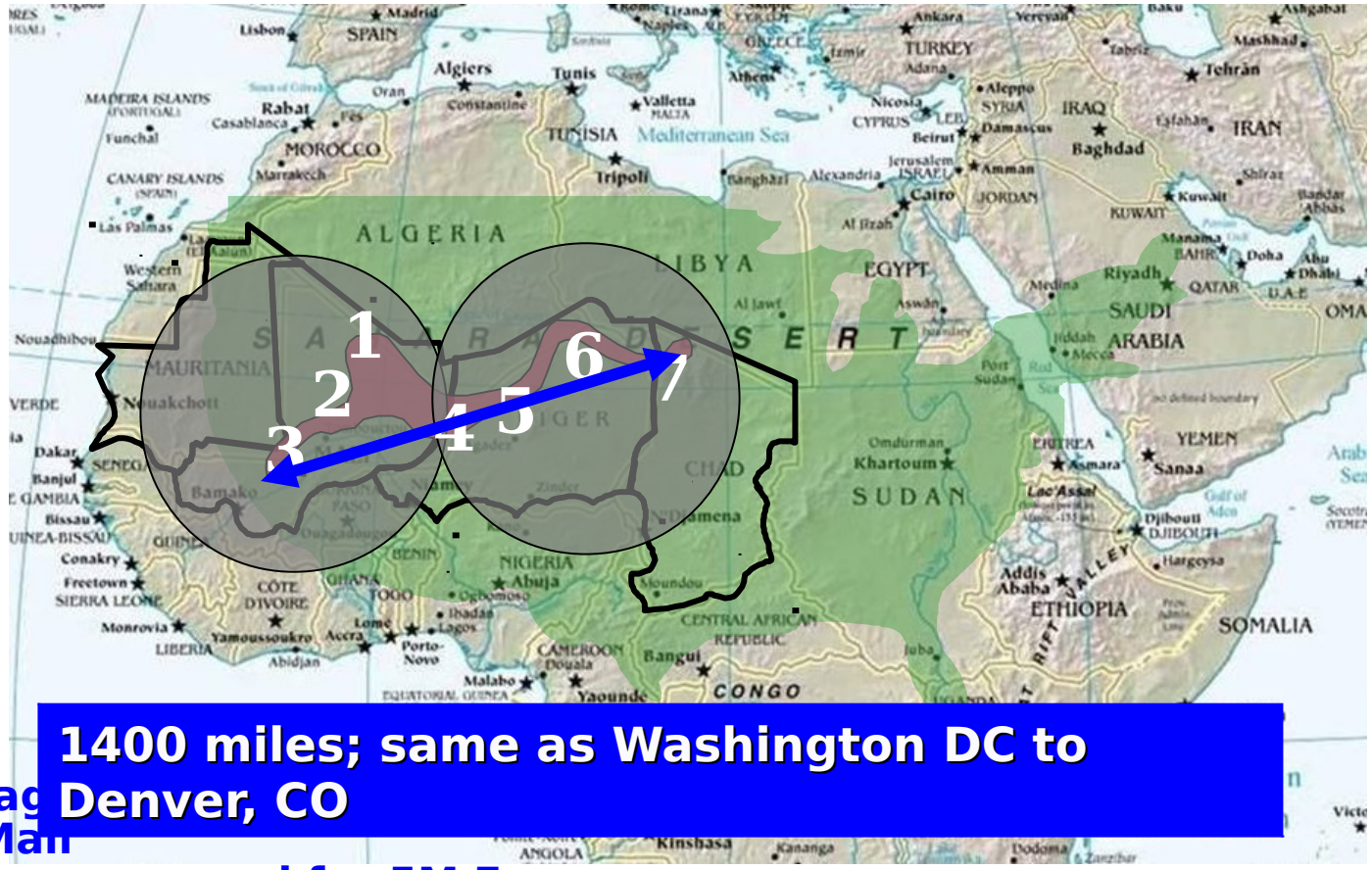
- **Sub-Saharan Africa has 11 percent of the world's population but only 1.5 percent of global trade**

- **West Africans are less well off today than they were 20 years ago**

- **Two of the world's poorest countries are Sierra Leone and Liberia**

Terrorism

Abdelrezzak al-Para



1400 miles; same as Washington DC to Denver, CO

Feb 03: Takes hostag
1. Jun 03: Enters Mali
2. Aug 03: Hostages ransomed for 5M Euros (~$6M)
3. Jan 04: Detains German tourists; disrupts Paris-Dakar rally
4. Shifts operations to Niger
5, 6, 7 Tracked and engaged by Nigerian and Chadian military forces

Feb – Early Mar 04:

Transnational Threats

- **Human Trafficking**
- **Diamond Smuggling**
- **Narcotics Smuggling**
- **Disease: HIV, malaria, polio**

Environmental Degradation

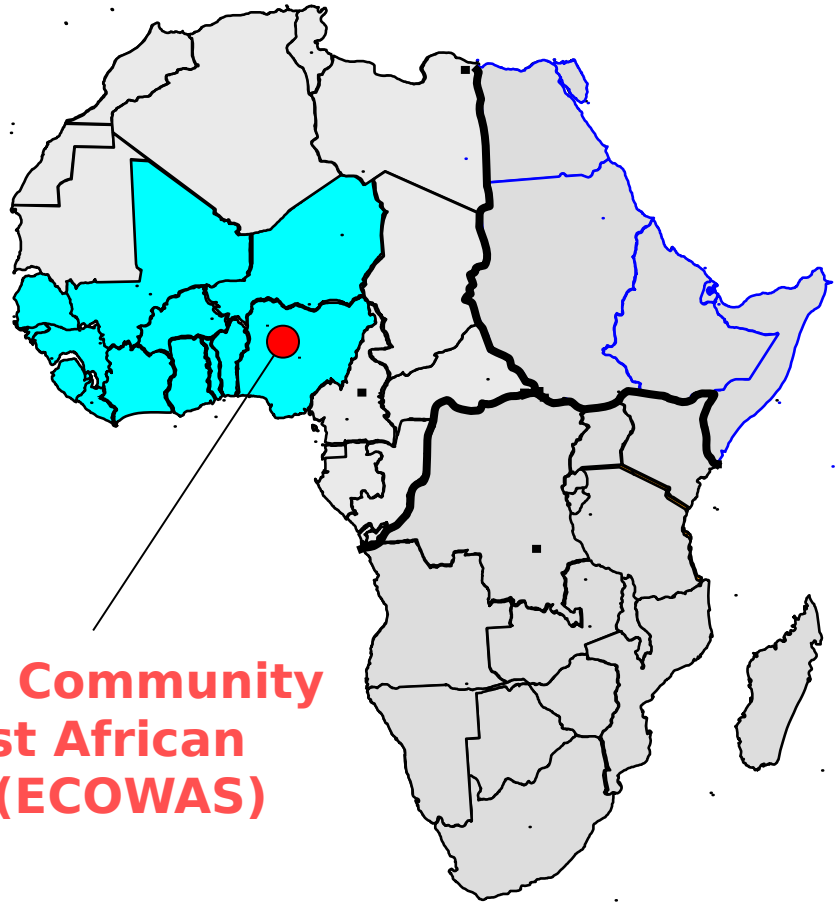
- Poor resource management degrade West Africa's natural environment
- Drought cycles lead to food insecurity

Socioeconomic Environment

- Unemployment major problem
  - ~One-third of people below poverty line
  - War-torn countries worst
- Illegal cross-border trade rampant
  - Alternative to unemployment
- Rural areas rely on farming
  - Vulnerable to instability
- Healthcare poor
  - Rural areas worst affected
  - Preventive medicine weak
  - ~5.8 million HIV/AIDS
- Life expectancy ~50.3 years
- Literacy rate 47.1 percent (over 15)
  - War-torn countries worst
  - Generation of youth uneducated

Liberian Child Soldier

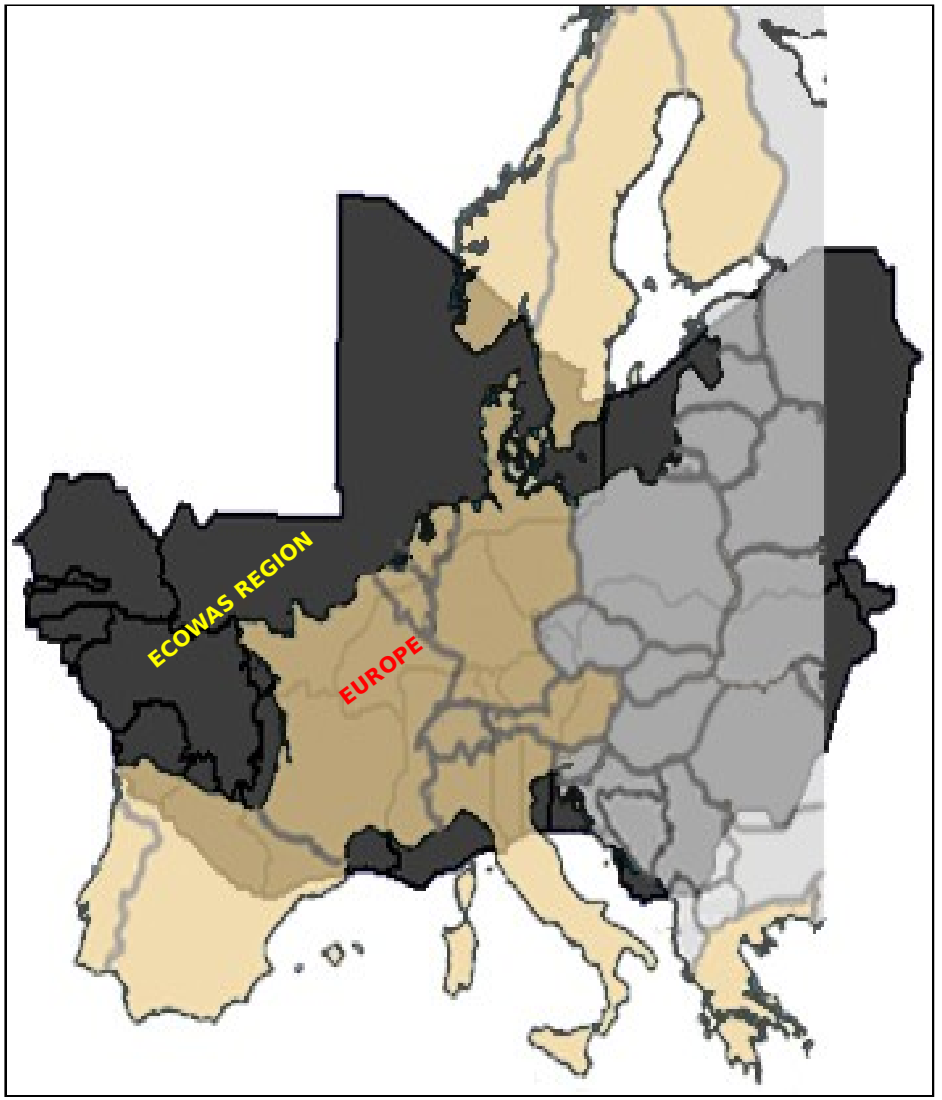
ECOWAS



Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS)

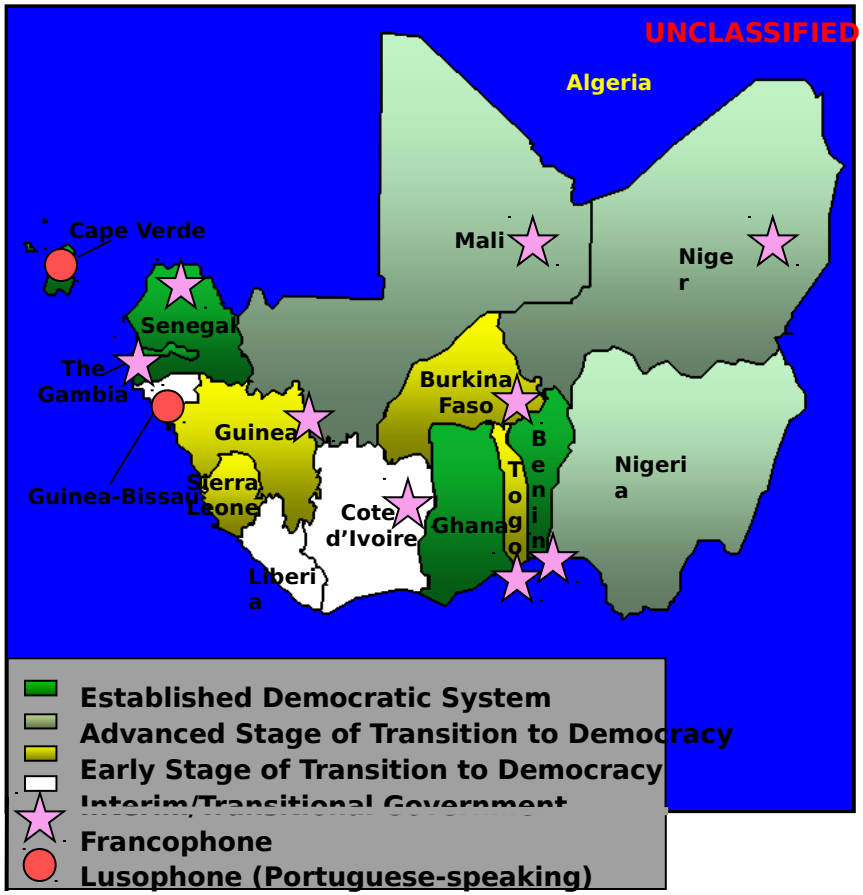
ECOWAS Geography

- **ECOWAS sub-region over 5.1 million sq miles**
  - **1 million sq miles larger than Europe**
  - **3 countries in region land-locked – Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso**



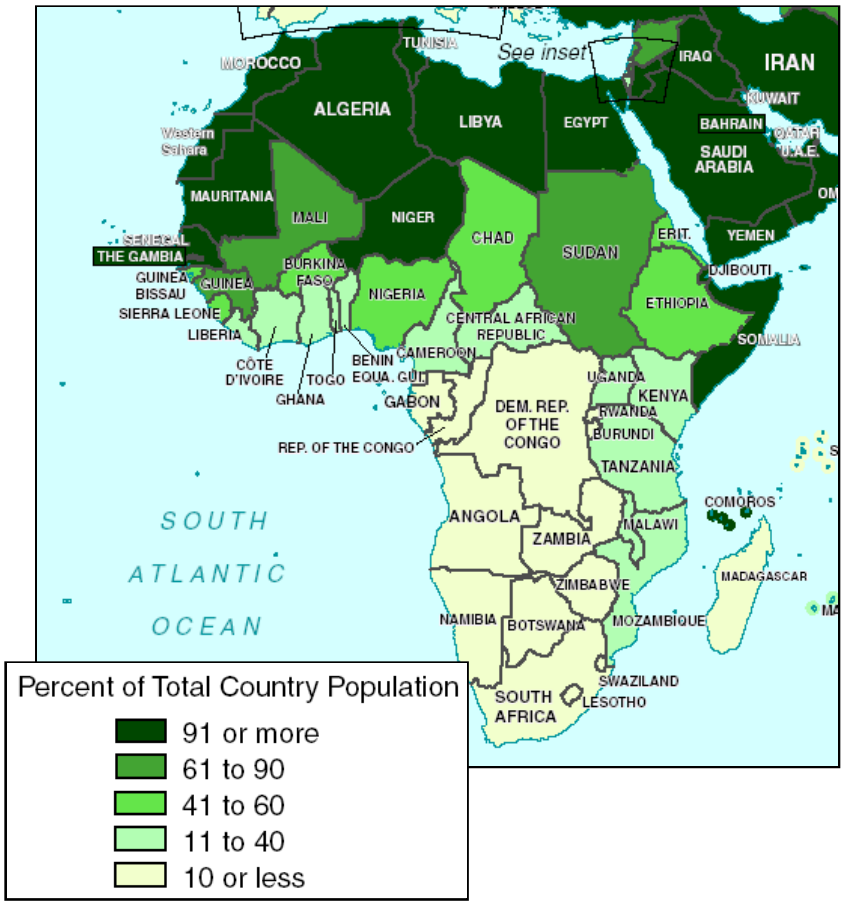
ECOWAS – Politics and Language

- **Several stable democracies**
- **Successive, peaceful, democratic transfers of power**
- **Several moving along path of democratization**
- **Effects of insurrection and war remain in others**
- ***Engagement and pressure from the West and aid/donor organizations encouraging progress in most countries***
- ***A few of the old guard cling to power by claiming to be reformers or hijacking the political process***
- ***Crisis response will suffer from political discord and lack of military capacity***

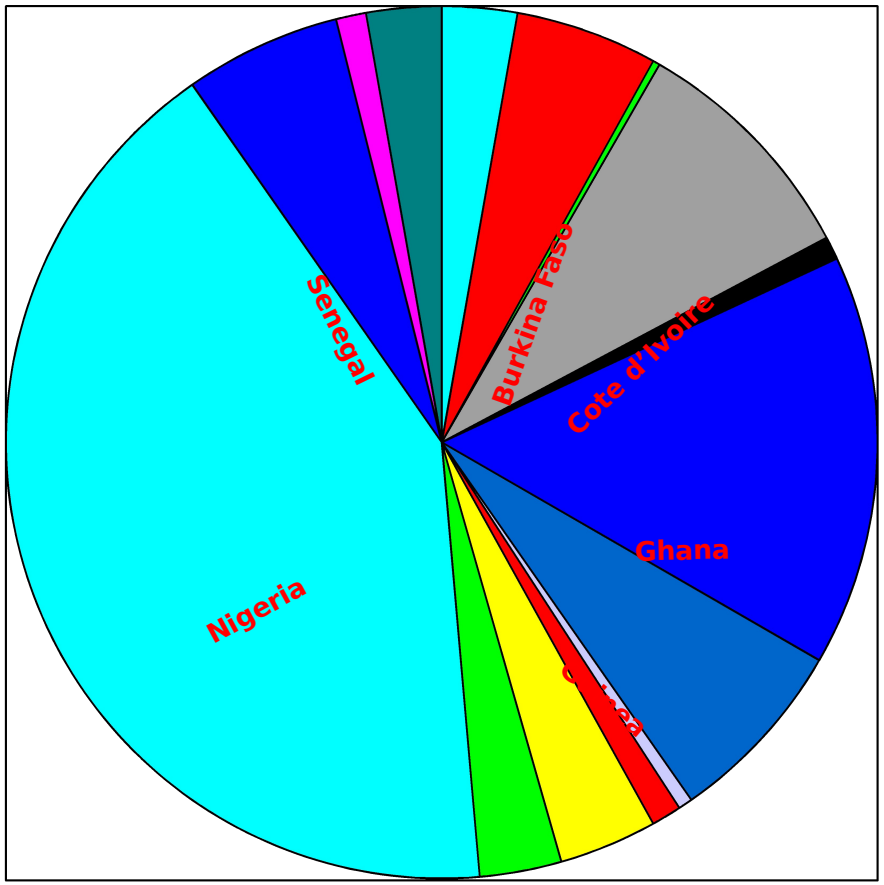


ECOWAS - Religious Characteristics

- **Discord and violence between Christians and Muslims in some states**
- **History of antagonism in Nigeria**
  - **Sharia adopted by northern states**
  - ***Politicians appear committed to maintaining Nigerian secular state***
- **Christian-Muslim tensions rising in Cote d'Ivoire**
  - **Muslims feel marginalized**
  - **Targets of violence in 2002**
- ***Radical Islamists could exploit religious tension to gain regional influence***



ECOWAS - Economic Capacity (est. 2002)



- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cape Verde
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Liberia
- Mali
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Togo

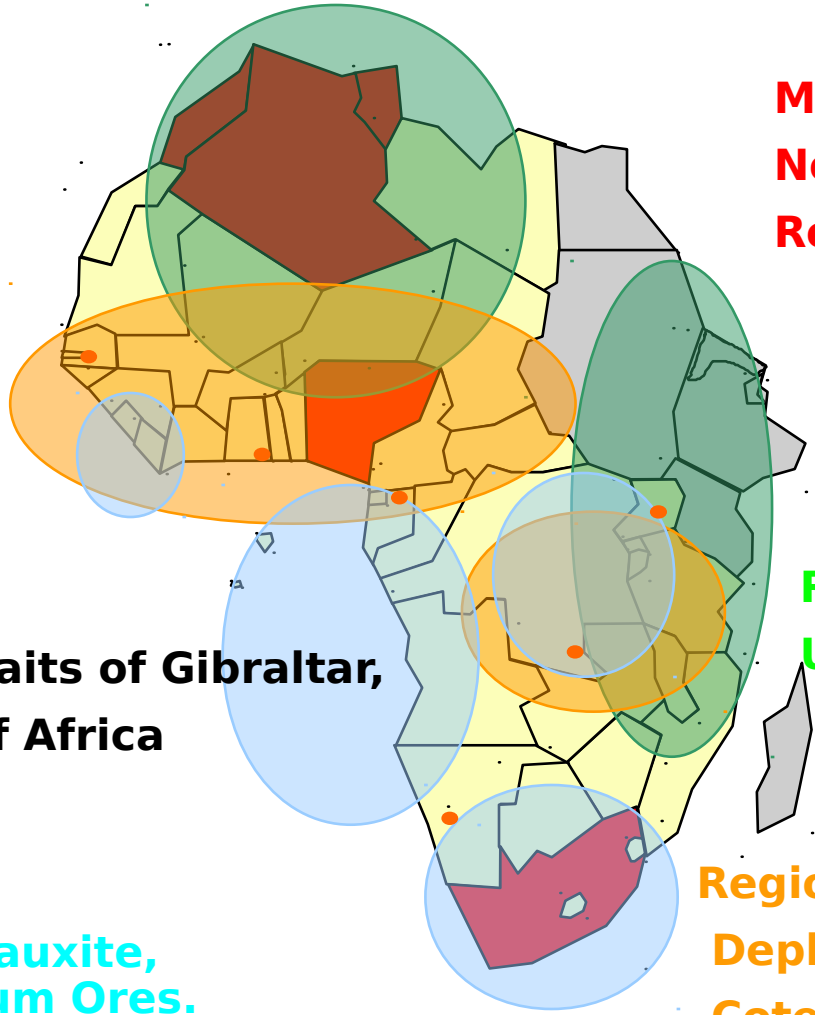
Combined GDP = US $270.03 (billion)

ECOWAS REGIONAL MEDICAL HAZARDS

- **Treated water is subject to contamination**
  - **Hepatitis A,B,C,D,E prevalent in area**
  - **23 % HIV positive rate and other STDs**
  - **Ebola Virus**
  - **Food and water contamination -- diarrheal diseases**
  - **Malaria and other fevers endemic in region**

Why is Africa Important?

Influence
Terrorism
Stability
Resources
Acces
S



Moderate Muslim States,
Non-Aligned Movement Lea
Regional Leaders.

Radical Islam, Porous bord
Ungoverned Areas

AFIH Locations, Straits of Gibraltar,
Suez Canal, Cape of Africa

Hyrocarbons,
Manganese, Bauxite,
Coltan, Platinum Ores.
Most of the worlds steel
is made with South
African Manganese,
others

Regional Instability resulting i
Deployments (Liberia, Sierra
Cote D'Ivoire, Burundi, DROC)
$Billions in costs

Key Points

- Africa is Important
- Africa is Large and Complex
- Africa has many Problems
- Africa has much Potential
- Africa is of Strategic importance to the World – left unchecked and unsupported is unthinkable
- Africa needs our Support

Why Are We Here?

- Gathering and sharing information is important
- Resources limited
  - Manpower
  - Money
  - Forces
  - Cannot afford to waste or duplicate efforts
- Benefits of working together
  - Share resources
  - Save time and money
  - Achieve desired goals faster

Africa Clearing House

To provide a working forum to exchange information concerning security assistance/cooperation programs for the African continent, and to explore the possibility of establishing a mechanism for continued information exchange and possible collaborative initiatives as appropriate.”